



## **BINGHAMTON POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME PREVENTION UNIT**



### **IDENTITY THEFT...PROTECT YOURSELF**

Identity theft can happen to anyone and everyone, don't let it happen to you!

Why protect yourself?

- Identity theft can cost you money, time and ruin your credit.
- Protect yourself before it happens to save you the excessive aggravation of clearing your name.

What can you do?

- **Remove your mail from your mailbox A.S.A.P!**
  - Thieves steal your credit card statements and bills for personal information.
- **Secure your Social Security Number**
  - Don't give out your pin or credit card numbers over the phone unless you started the transaction.
- **Keep your receipts**
  - Don't throw your receipts in public trash cans.
- **Annually review your credit report**
  - You receive a free credit report every year, use it.
- **Destroy pre-approved credit card offers**
  - Use a home shredder to get rid of sensitive information
- **Know where all your check books are located**
  - Report stolen checks immediately
- **Watch your ATM transactions**
  - Don't allow others to have a clear view of your pin when you type it.
- **Memorize your all passwords**
  - Less on paper is better.
- **Use creative passwords**
  - Don't use phone numbers, addresses, birth date, last four digits of social or easy number combinations.
- **Use only secure websites**
  - Be aware of emails that ask you for your personal information.
  - Never provide your pin as a way of identifying yourself.